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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/973,862  
Applicant : Kelly G. AMMANN et al.  
Filed : October 11, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1634  
Examiner : Frank Wei Min LU

Docket No. : 2599-104-D4  
Customer No. : 6449  
Confirmation No. : 8811

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**MS - DD**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

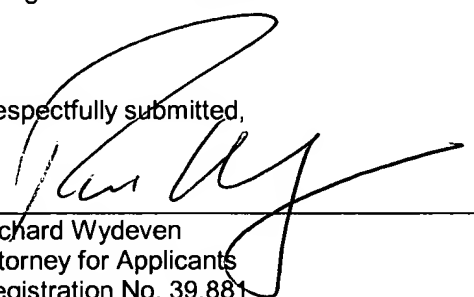
Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application. Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed.

I hereby certify that items 1, 2, 3, and 8 contained in this information disclosure statement were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

I hereby certify that none of the remaining items of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, none of the remaining items of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, therefore no fee is being submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Richard Wydeven  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 39,881  
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.  
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202)783-6040

Date: December 21, 2005  
Enclosures: Cited Foreign Reference (1)  
European Search Report

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First Named Inventor	<b>Kelly G. AMMANN</b>
Group Art Unit	<b>1634</b>
Examiner Name	<b>Frank Wei Min LU</b>
Attorney Docket Number	<b>2599-104-D4</b>
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8811

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.



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Date Considered

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